

# Iowa Crops & Weather



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Issued May 5, 2003

Vol. 03-09

For the week ending May 4, 2003

## Moisture Levels Improve Across Iowa

During the past week, Iowa improved its soil moisture levels while making gains on fieldwork when soil conditions allowed. Although the moisture was welcomed, soil moisture levels are now at the point where several days of drying weather would be favorable in order to continue fieldwork. Farm ponds were starting to fill back up and ponding in fields was observed. Pasture conditions continued to improve while spring calving was reported as nearly complete. Livestock conditions were reported as good, although feedlots were muddy.

**Topsoil moisture** ratings were 0 percent very short, 2 percent short, 67 percent adequate, and 31 percent surplus across Iowa. **Subsoil moisture** ratings were 3 percent very short, 19 percent short, 65 percent adequate, and 13 percent surplus.

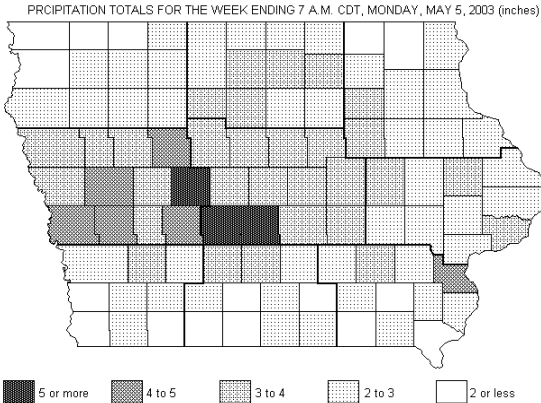
There were 2.7 **days suitable for fieldwork**, compared to 4.3 days last week and 2.5 days last year at this time. **Primary seedbed preparations** were 79 percent complete, while **fertilizer applications** were 89 percent complete. **Oat seedings** were 98 percent complete, compared to 93 percent last week, and similar to last year's progress of 99 percent complete. **Oat emergence** was at 74 percent, compared to 50 percent last week, but slightly below the 79 percent last year at this time. **Corn planting** increased from 28 percent complete to 56 percent complete. This is slightly ahead of last year's progress of 50 percent complete and the 5-year average of 50 percent complete. **Corn emergence** was at 3 percent, similar to last year's progress of 5 percent emergence, but below the 5-year average of 7 percent emergence. **Soybean planting** was at 4 percent, slightly below last year's progress of 6 percent and the 5-year average of 11 percent. **Pasture and Range** conditions rated

0 percent very poor, 5 percent poor, 33 percent fair, 52 percent good, and 10 percent excellent.

## Iowa Weather Summary

The past week brought seasonal temperatures to Iowa with extremes ranging from a Wednesday (30th) afternoon high of 79 degrees at Centerville down to a Saturday (3rd) morning low of 34 degrees at Anamosa. Temperatures for the week as a whole averaged from 1.6 degrees above normal at Lamoni down to 1.7 degrees below normal at Ottumwa. The big news for the week was rain. Showers and thunderstorms dropped rain statewide on Tuesday (29th), Wednesday (30th), and Sunday (4th). Heavy rains on Tuesday (29th) night were focused on far western Iowa where Little Sioux reported 4.18 inches of rain. Wednesday (30th) night storms were strongest across the southeast one-half of the state with 3.37 inches reported at Wapello. Finally, Sunday's (4th) storms were centered over the central portion of the state with 3.84 inches of rain reported at Jefferson. Minor flooding was occurring in portions of central Iowa, especially in the Raccoon River basin as a result of the recent rain events. Weekly rainfall totals varied from 1.39 inches at Sioux Center up to 6.29 inches at Johnston. The statewide average precipitation was 2.80 inches, or more than three times the weekly normal of 0.83 inches. This was Iowa's wettest week in nearly five years. Meanwhile, the first severe weather of the year was reported from a few western Iowa locations on the night of the 29th. This marked the latest start to Iowa's severe weather season since 1980. Severe weather was more widespread on the 30th with large hail reported from 23 counties including baseball size hail at Morning Sun in Louisa County. Large hail also was reported from 14 counties on Sunday (4th), mainly across southern Iowa, although the weekend hail only rarely exceeded one inch in diameter.

Statewide Crop Conditions as of May 4, 2003					
Item	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Range & Pasture	0	5	33	52	10



Field Work and Crop Progress as of May 4, 2003													
Item	Districts									State	Last Week	Last Year	Normal
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent				
Fertilizer application completed (including fall work)	86	92	85	89	87	94	92	91	90	89	81	90	86
Seedbed, primary preparation completed (including fall work)	74	85	78	79	81	81	77	76	82	79	67	83	81
Corn planted	66	85	52	51	56	52	42	30	33	56	28	50	50
Corn emerged	2	1	1	2	2	3	6	6	7	3	0	5	7
Soybeans planted	3	5	9	2	3	4	3	7	9	4	1	6	11
Oats planted	94	100	98	100	99	100	99	99	96	98	93	99	93
Oats emerged	69	81	56	76	69	81	90	88	86	74	50	79	64

Days Suitable & Soil Moisture Condition as of May 4, 2003												
Item	Districts									State	Last Week	Last Year
	NW	NC	NE	WC	C	EC	SW	SC	SE			
	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days	Days			
Days suitable	3.0	3.6	3.4	2.5	2.4	2.8	2.0	1.7	1.3	2.7	4.3	2.5
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Topsoil moisture												
Very short	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1
Short	1	2	2	1	0	0	5	6	1	2	17	8
Adequate	76	46	87	67	64	84	67	51	55	67	78	79
Surplus	23	52	11	32	36	16	28	43	44	31	3	11
Subsoil moisture												
Very short	2	0	1	2	0	0	6	13	2	3	11	5
Short	12	8	19	20	13	8	36	27	31	19	31	24
Adequate	71	57	75	72	68	85	52	39	67	65	56	65
Surplus	15	35	5	6	19	7	6	21	0	13	2	6

Weather Summary For Iowa Agricultural Statistics Service Prepared by AWIS, Inc. For the week ending: Sunday, May 4, 2003										
STATION	CURRENT WEEK						SINCE APRIL 1		CURRENT WEEK	
	TEMPERATURE				PRECIPITATION		PRECIPITATION		GDD BASE 50F	
	HI	LO	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL	DFN
Estherville Sioux Center Spencer Spirit Lake	North West District									
	74	41	55	4	0.76	0.06	1.57	-1.64	37	6
	74	44	57	3	1.39	0.76	3.47	0.65	51	6
	76	41	56	3	0.64	-0.09	2.26	-0.88	40	4
	71	44	53	2	1.83	1.20	2.73	-0.09	26	-23
Britt Humboldt Mason City Northwood	North Central District									
	76	43	54	0	0.47	-0.30	2.89	-0.57	36	-6
	77	46	56	2	1.10	0.33	3.53	0.05	46	8
	77	40	54	2	0.74	-0.07	2.18	-1.26	35	0
	77	42	55	3	0.48	-0.29	2.76	-0.68	34	0
Decorah Dubuque Elkader Independence Waterloo	North East District									
	77	37	56	2	0.87	0.03	2.89	-1.00	42	0
	75	35	54	1	1.92	1.01	3.23	-1.01	32	-6
	79	35	55	2	1.67	0.83	4.29	0.60	38	-17
	79	37	54	2	2.08	1.24	3.30	-0.53	32	-25
Audubon Carroll Castana Guthrie Center Harlan Jefferson Logan Rockwell City Sioux City	80	40	58	4	1.81	0.97	3.81	0.03	55	12
	West Central District									
	76	44	56	-2	2.30	1.41	4.62	0.84	46	-6
	77	45	57	2	1.81	0.94	4.11	0.30	47	4
	74	44	57	2	1.76	0.98	2.99	-0.21	54	12
Ames Boone Des Moines Eldora Marshalltown Newton Perry Toledo	78	45	57	3	4.24	3.40	6.70	2.94	52	6
	79	45	57	2	2.17	1.31	4.16	0.56	53	6
	78	46	57	3	1.73	0.86	4.70	0.89	49	6
	78	44	58	2	4.72	3.85	6.87	3.44	60	6
	77	45	56	0	2.34	1.55	4.72	1.45	43	-6
Cedar Rapids Davenport Iowa City Lowden Maquoketa Muscatine	76	42	58	2	2.67	1.99	4.50	1.76	53	2
	Central District									
	77	45	57	4	1.77	0.88	4.18	0.34	53	14
	78	46	57	3	2.19	1.31	5.72	1.87	52	7
	77	49	59	2	3.20	2.43	5.95	2.15	65	11
Clarinda Glenwood Oakland Red Oak Sidney	77	44	56	2	1.73	0.89	4.11	0.49	42	0
	75	40	56	3	1.60	0.77	2.60	-1.08	47	6
	77	45	57	1	2.34	1.49	4.27	0.53	49	0
	77	45	57	3	3.16	2.32	6.10	2.48	48	5
	76	42	54	0	2.60	1.71	4.26	0.49	32	-6
Allerton Beaconsfield Chariton Indianola Leon	East Central District									
	77	41	56	2	1.23	0.46	2.55	-1.08	44	-2
	76	35	56	-1	1.47	0.70	3.16	-0.53	41	-8
	77	43	57	-1	1.36	0.45	3.23	-0.98	54	-4
	78	36	54	-1	1.11	0.20	2.45	-1.82	31	-16
Bloomfield Burlington Ottumwa	77	35	53	-2	1.88	1.11	3.19	-0.46	26	-12
	76	42	56	-2	1.26	0.42	2.99	-0.99	46	8
	South West District									
	76	42	57	2	1.78	0.84	4.79	0.85	54	3
	76	45	59	2	1.73	0.83	4.27	0.79	61	5
South Central District	75	44	57	2	2.56	1.77	5.13	1.69	49	2
	77	44	59	1	1.88	0.97	3.94	-0.06	64	3
	76	47	59	2	1.13	0.26	3.30	-0.37	64	6
	South Central District									
	77	40	56	0	1.15	0.31	5.40	1.59	44	16
South East District	74	46	56	1	0.85	0.01	4.10	0.33	43	-4
	75	40	56	1	2.41	1.56	5.21	1.19	45	-2
	75	47	58	3	1.17	0.26	4.32	0.22	59	10
	76	40	57	2	1.11	0.18	4.70	0.63	51	3
	South East District									
	78	42	57	-1	0.89	-0.02	5.30	1.27	52	-7
	78	42	59	2	0.75	-0.09	3.41	-0.56	62	6
	77	43	58	1	1.14	0.30	4.03	0.26	57	1

Precipitation (rain, melted snow or ice) in inches. Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more. Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit. Copyright 2003: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.